know whether any steps have been taken, or, whether there is any understanding to stop these activities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, that is enough.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, there are only a few seconds left for the Question Hour to be over. I just want to say that the hon. Prime Minister did discuss this and brought this specific subject regarding the Joint Statement signed in Islamabad at the time of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit on the 6th of December, in which the Pakistan President had assured us that the soil of Pakistan would not be allowed to be used by terrorists to attack any country, or India. They have reiterated this and we have got the assurances.

A meeting took place between the hon. Prime Minister and General Musharraff in Jakarta recently. We are fully conscisous of this and we have been telling the Pakistanis time and again to dismantle these camps.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITEEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-China Boundary Dispute

*481. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the talks between India and China have progressed to settle the boundary dispute between the two countries;

(b) the details of such talks;

(c) whether Government plan to take all the political parties into confidence before reaching a final agreement with China; and

(d) If not, the reasons behind it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There have been five meetings so far between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question. These talks

resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" between the two sides on April 11, 2005 during the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Based on the parameters and principles laid down in the Agreement, the Special Representatives have been tasked to continue their consultations with the objective of arriving at an agreed framework for a boundary settlement, which will provide the basis for the delineation and demarcation of the India-China boundary to be subsequently undertaken by civil and military officials and surveyors of the two sides. In addition, the India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question, which is engaged in tasks relating to clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control and establishment of confidence building measures in the India-China border areas, continues its discussions.

(c) and (d) Government's policy towards China is characterized by continuity and consensus. In dealing with complex issues like the boundary question, it has been Government's endeavour to consult political parties and seek understanding and support of the Parliament.

New Highways in Rajasthan

†*482. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as five new highways had been notified in the month of February, 2004 in Rajsthan and the Government of Rajasthan had furnished no objection certificate for the issuance of interim order in this regard in March, 2004 itself; and

(b) if so, by when the requisite orders in this regard are likely to be issued and the funds likely to be provided for the repair of these new national highways?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five State Highways have been declared as National Highways (NHs) in February, 2004. These are National Highways No. 112, 113, 114, 116 and 11B. The notification for entrustment of these National Highways was issued on 29th October, 2004. Maintenance and repair of new National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.